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Chapter 3 Try This! Question 2

The chapter assigned described and listed many different types of instructional methods. Some of them are differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, thematic teaching units, and many more that will be elaborated and explained in the following paragraphs.

The first section dealt with the differentiated instruction aspect of the instructional method. In differentiated instruction, it’s pretty obvious with the name, there’s different instructions presented to students that have different cognitive needs. In this case, the teacher will make adjustments in the pacing of lessons, the methods that are used to present information, and the degree of difficulty of information. Basically, it’s the teacher explaining things in different ways for students to understand and learn the concepts presented. This allows diversity among students in learning styles because not all students learn the same. Some students are visual learners (learning by watching) but some are kinesthetic and learn by doing hands on activities along with other kinds of learning. In this situation, the teachers relay information to students who may learn differently than others.

Another form of an instructional method is the cooperative learning method. The cooperative learning method is when students are put into small groups to complete assignments given. This enhances differences in learning by interacting the students with special needs and the general education students together in a group to socially interact and to learn off of each other. Some students learn better when a peer teaches them the concepts displayed. Another form of this is community-based instruction. Community-based instruction is when the teacher feels the lesson being taught is very small and means very little to the student and the teacher may construct the lesson in another class or community. These methods are just alternatives for students who don’t understand lecture-based lessons or students who prefer to work in groups rather than alone.

Not only do students benefit from teachers explaining lessons and teaching subjects, but they also benefit from a method called study skills approach. This approach gives lessons on how students can study for tests, quizzes, etc. and how they can approach and discover their own ways of learning. This brings a variety of options to students with distinct learning styles. For example, some students may be taught to use flash cards for vocabulary words, but some students may prefer the alternatives like just reading the words or writing them down on a separate piece of paper. Students who are taught these strategies usually apply them in their own way. The teacher may present several ways of studying and a student may pick one or more ways to study for the test or other assignment; this presents options to the student.

Although there are many other methods, they are repetitive or are smaller methods than the ones written. The main goal, as this writer has interpreted it, is for the teacher to adapt to the students’ learning styles rather than the students adapting to the teacher’s teaching styles.